From The Prez

Repeater Down

We wish this was an April fool's joke, but it's not. As of Monday April 2nd, the 146.820 and the 443.825 repeaters will be temporarily out of service. The management at Channel 55 decided not to allow us further use of the tower in Parma. We are in the process of establishing a new main tower site. We can say the progress is going in a very positive direction and the possible new tower locations are excellent sites.

Temporary Nets

In the meantime we are going to run the Wednesday 9:00 PM nets using different tools. On Wednesday April 4th we will use the Shaker Heights standalone UHF repeater. The frequency is 444.750 with a plus (+) 5 MHz offset and a 131.8 PL tone. David, KD8ACO, will be the net control station. The following week on April 11th we will do a simplex net using the 146.820 frequency. Depending on how these experiments go, and the status of the main repeater, we will chart a course for the future. Who knows? We may continue these nets in the future at different times. Please spread the word to any fellow members and other amateurs of these nets in the event they don't see this announcement or the one we will post on the CARS website.

Connecticut Trip

We have yet to get twenty-five club members to sign up for the proposed bus trip to the ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. We have decided to allow those signed up to determine if they want to divide the rider's share of the cost of the bus equally. This would put the individual share above the original target cost of one hundred dollars. Many of those who signed up really want to make the trip. Some are those went four years ago and want to experience it again. Some heard how much fun the trip was and were not able to go, but want to go this time. Others are new members who think it would be cool to make the trip. There is still time for more people to sign up, which would lower the individual's expense.
73, Toby, WT8O

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
March 13th 2018 Business Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 13th day of the month at Simon's restaurant in Brecksville, Ohio. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The February 13th 2018 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the March 2018 *Wobbly Oscillator.*

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance.

Toby, WT8O presented Bob, KC8MRC, with an award for most net check-ins for 2017.

Chuck Mehozonek, K8CVM, was voted into the club as a NEW member.

Mark, WJ8WM, had no report.

Larry, N8OWS, had no report as well.

Public service information for 2018 is available in the *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Scott Yonally, N8SY, kept the group's interest with his enlighteng commentary after dinner at Simon's.

Bill, KD8QBB, has been working to fill the program schedule for the remainder of the year so if you have any ideas contact Bill.

Metro, W8MET, stated that there were five NEW Technicians, two General class upgrades and one Extra class upgrade from the last VE session on March 11th, 2018. The next VE session is May 13th, 2018 at the OLD Elmwood Recreation center next to Elmwood Pond in Elmwood Park. Sessions begin at 9am.

The repeater site on the Channel 55 tower in Parma has been lost however there are two towers in Broadview Heights with possibilities.

The bus trip to the ARRL in April currently has 16 people signed up to go. The club needs 25 to make the trip work. People from other clubs are welcome. Let Toby know if you are interested. The trip would be sometime in April.

The proposed Bylaw change from last meeting was discussed. Currently the yearly audit is at the end of the year. The change would move the Audit to the 1st quarter of the next year allowing paperwork and other statements to arrive and be processed. The Bylaw change was voted on by the members in attendance and PASSED.

There was no NEW business.

(Continued next page)

Scott Yonally, N8SY, ARRL Section Manager for Ohio, was the speaker this evening.

Bill, N8BBB, won the 50/50 raffle.

Ron, K8VJG, and Rich, NW8X, won ARRL hats as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

There were 34 members and guests in attendance this evening.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.

Bob, KC8MRC, most net check-ins 2017

Peep from the Veep
Mark, WJ8WM

Today is March 27th, my father would have been 90 years old if he was still with us! It is also Diabetes Alert Day. I know several of us in the club have diabetes and are doing what is necessary to manage the disease.

I was diagnosed in 2009 after taking a blood test for life insurance. I had no idea although I had symptoms. One symptom is increased thirst. I am suggesting everyone reading this article log on to http://www.diabetes.org/are-you-at-risk/alert-day/ and answer the simple questions to see if it's time to visit the doc.

The disease is manageable, sometimes just with a dietary adjustment and / or exercise. The point is it is important to know and take the steps required because left untreated, the ramifications can be unpleasant and we need each and every one of our members!

Field Day is fast approaching and we need lots of operators.

VE Session March 11, 2018
Metro, W8MET

We had five new Technicians and three upgrades; two Generals and one Extra. Thanks to the VE Team for their participation: Gary, NI8Z; Larry, N8OWS; Darren, K8DMT; George, K8KR; Dave, NF8O, and Joel, K8SHB. *[Special thanks to, as always, to Metro, W8MET for running the show. Ed.]*

The new Technicians are Marcus Just, KE8JCR; Rafaela Picciano, KE8JCS; Nolan Pearce, KE8JCT; Michael Smith, KE8JCU; James Stewart, KE8JCW. Those who upgraded to General were Christian Fitzharris, KF6POE, and Alex Harnocz, KA8ALE. Upgrading to Extra was Gregory Short

Exploring HF Receive Antennas
David Korow, AC8TN

I am fortunate enough to own an HF rig that allows the connection of two dedicated receive only antennas. If your rig didn't come from the factory with this capability, you can add a device sold at DX Engineering that adds a receive-only antenna input (part # SVP-SV-DXIISS).Wondering what advantages a receive-only antenna would provide me on the lower bands, I did extensive reading on the internet and decided to buy and install a Wellbrook active loop antenna (ALA1530LNP).

The success with this loop antenna on 40M, 80M and 160M was simply amazing. Noise levels dropped significantly (160M reception improved dramatically). I could now hear DX on the active loop and transmit on my 45 foot tall vertical dipole (GAP Voyager DX). This very positive experience with my loop antenna got me thinking that if a one meter diameter active loop worked this well, what would a larger array be able to do?

The searches for a larger, more elaborate 2nd receive-only antenna began with the ARRL "Wire Antenna Classics" books. After reading through the 3 volume set, and keeping in mind my 30' X 30' open area, I made my choice. The antenna is presented in volume 2, beginning on page 8-5. I would describe it as an 80M resonant, horizontal, back-to-back, phased 2 delta loop antenna. It measures 25 feet on a side, is square in shape, 10 feet above the ground and made from 14awg copper clad steel wire. 50 ohm coax is fed to the loop through a 9:1 balun, with a 40pF trimmer capacitor in series with the antennas to tune it to 3.7Mhz. Going beyond what's described in the ARRL book, I added from the output of the balun a 10 foot length of 450 ohm ladder line to attain resonance in the 75M phone band.

Dave's setup at his QTH

One other item that I added to each of these receive-only antennas was a DX Engineering front end protector. This was an obvious need given the proximity of these receive antennas to my GAP vertical transmit antenna. The Wellbrook is 35 feet away, but the delta loops are less than 3 feet distance. Protecting my receiver was a high priority; given my typical 1kW transmit power.

The magnetic loop and the delta loops along with the GAP, gives me three receive antennas. Give ever changing band conditions, I have to say that the two loops are always more quiet than the GAP. Between the two loops, I never know which receives better until I find a signal of interest. With my radio's diversity reception function, I can listen in one ear with one antenna and listen to the 2nd antenna with the other ear. This reception mode often times is the best to pull the weak ones out.

(Continued next page)

Here is a high level list of parts that I used:

Parts list (only major components)

Quantity	Part #	Manufacturer	Description
200'	511	thewireman.com	14 AWG antenna wire with 7 strands of copper-clad steel
1	BA-9-250	palomar engineering	9:1 balun toroid kit - 500W
1	GZC10100	mouser electronics	sprague trimmer capacitor 9-100pF 100V+
1	SVP-SV-FESSS	DX Engineering	front end saver

Photo's of the antenna show that it is supported by two telescoping guyed fiberglass poles and two 11' steel poles at each corner. The center of the antenna is help up by a 3" diameter, 10 foot length of PVC pipe. To give the antenna a square shape a spreader was made of ¾" PVC pipe, creating a large "X" to attach the corners of the loops, and provide a raceway for the 450 ohm handmade ladder line. Much thanks to Metro, W8MET, for support of this adventure and hours of work building and erecting this skyloop.

I hope this article inspires you to explore the wonderful world of dedicated receive antenna. It's opened up lots of new opportunities on the lower HF bands for me.

Welcome new Members

MARCUS JUST, KE8JCR

RAFAELA PICCIANO, KE8JCS

NOLAN PEARCE, KE8JCT

MICHAEL SMITH , KE8JCU

JAMES STEWART, KE8JCW

Hamfest
Metro, W8MET

The Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest will be held April 14th at the Emidio & Sons Party Center, located at 48 E. Bath Rd. The fest will start at 8:00 AM. Check-In 147.27 Mhz (110.0 Hz.) $6.00 Admission. More information can be found at www.cfarc.org/hamfest.php?festnow=2018

April Birthdays

Tim Campensa, KD8YQM	4/10/47
Mark Studer, KC8FQV	4/14/64
Gary Berkowitz, K8REF	4/19
Vince Bak, N8OVW	4/22/49
Bob Wright, KE8CEO	4/22/63
John Cobb Sr., KC8WLY	4/23/57
Metro Sinko, W8MET	4/27/52
Joe Berngartt, NC8J	4/27/51
Bob Check, W8GC	4/29/41

ARCL Contests
Eddie, KD8FTS

Looking for unique challenges in amateur radio? Try participating in an ARCL contest. While the ARCL, or Amateur Radio Contesting League, has been around for many years, it has only recently gained wide spread acceptance in the amateur community. The ARCL was founded back in 1942 by J0KE in Atlantis, Georgia. The original purpose of the ARCL was to promote DX contesting during the war, when other, more prominent amateur radio organizations, turned their backs on contesting. One thing that has always set ARCL contests apart is the unusual way in which points are earned. During the war, points were awarded based on the countries contacted. Participants earned extra points for contacts made with countries on opposing sides of the war.

After the war, it was determined that participants enjoyed unusual challenges in contesting, so the ARCL came up with many unique contesting categories and point multipliers. Some of those early point multipliers became integrated into our standard Q-Codes. Most notable is QLF, which is sent as an inquiry asking if the sender is keying with their left foot. If the response comes back in the affirmative, two additional points are awarded for the contact. If both stations are keying with their left feet, then three additional points are awarded for the contact.

In general, when making a contact in an ARCL contest, stations must exchange not only their call signs and locations, but must also exchange the Q-Code, or Q-Codes, which signify the station's non-standard method of operation. Two points are awarded for every voice contact, and three points are awarded for every CW contact. Additional points are awarded for non-standard methods of operation, signified by Q-codes. Some of the available non-standard method of operation are as follows:

QDL: Using a Dummy Load instead of an antenna

QAS: Contacts made while wearing an Ape Suit

QMB: Contacts made while Mobile

QLF: Keying with your Left Foot

While the ARCL has not yet put any official restrictions on the combination of Q-codes to earn extra points, they do ask that operators use good judgement. While it can certainly help the points add up, the ARCL discourages the combination of QMB (Mobile) with other non-standard methods of operation. Last year a disturbing number of QLF-QAS-QMB contacts were submitted. That would be keying with your left foot, in an ape suit, while mobile.

ARCL contests are gaining popularity and several club members have started participating. If you are interested in participating in an ARCL contest, or would like more information, just ask a club member.

The Random Wire
Tom Wayne, WB8N

As my mother used to say, "Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the flowers is?" And I'm wondering too! What gives here? It's March 26th as I write this and it's still in the low 30's (actually it's 53 degrees out right now) with some snow on the ground in some spots. I'm telling ya, it's been a long cold winter and I personally have had enough!

We SHOULD be outside, maybe even up on the roof or tower, looking at our antennas to see if the winter winds and snow have done any damage to them, making repairs if so, or maybe putting up a new antenna or two. Oh well, there's hope ahead, we know it's gonna warm up eventually...I think.

How many of you are going to the great Hamvention this year? It's gonna be in Xenia for the second year. If you've never been to the Hamvention, you really should go at least once in your Ham career. It's quite an experience. CARS is sponsoring a bus again, the cost is only 50 bucks, and it's really a deal. You don't have to drive, worry about parking, and you can nap on the way down and back, or rag chew with your fellow riders.

You get to see and play with the latest in Ham Radio equipment, maybe find a good piece of gear in the flea market, meet and chat with the big guys of Ham Radio, such as Gordon West, Bob Heil, and others. DX Engineering always has a big booth and you can meet and chat with guys from there, talk to owner of MFJ, as well as other Ham Radio business owners/operators.

Iv'e gone to the Hamvention many times but think I'll stay at home this year. There is nothing I need or want at this point plus I don't get around as well as I used to could. Maybe next year, if I'm still on the green side of the grass.

Haven't been on HF air waves much at all lately. My shack is on the second floor and I don't do well on the stairs any more either. Hey, it ain't easy getting old!

Sorry I didn't have a Random Wire column in last month's Wobbly Oscillator. I just couldn't think of anything to write about. I'll try not to let it happen again but I'm not making any promises. Hi Hi.

Hamfest time is coming up soon, besides the Hamvention. The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club (CFARC) hamfest is coming up first. I don't have a date in front of me but It is usually a nice little hamfest and it is fairly close by and you can find some good deals there. I'm gonna try to get out there myself.

So fellow Hams (and I'm including the ladies), that'll about do it for this issue. I'll just extend my 73's to all who read this, and catch ya'll on the air or at the next meeting, or both. I hope.

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Metro's Picks

State QSO Parties

Working these states is a chance for you to work towards your WAS (Worked All States) award because these Stations are looking for your points for their Ohio award towards their WAS Award.

April 7, 1400-April 8, 0200 3.5-UHF Mississippi QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.arrlmiss.org

April 7, 1400-April 8, 2000 1.8-UHF Missouri QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.w0ma.org

April 14, 1400-April 15, 0200 1.8-50 New Mexico QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.newmexicoqsoparty.org

April 14, 1800-April 15, 1800 1.8-144 North Dakota QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.kg0yl.net/QSO.html

April 14, 1800-April 15, 2359 1.8-50 Georgia QSO Party CW Ph Dig www.georgiaqsoparty.org

April 21, 1300-April 22, 0000 1.8-UHF Nebraska QSO Party CW Ph Dig qcwa.org/chapter025.htm

April 21, 1600-April 22, 0400 3.5-28.0 Michigan QSO Party CW Ph www.miqp.org/Rules.htm

April 28, 1600-April 29, 2159 7-28.0 Florida QSO Party CW Ph floridaqsoparty.org/rules

Happy Hunting

Special Events Stations

April 21, 0000-2359 KM1CC is International Marconi Day from Massachusetts. CW 14.035 3.535 SSB 14.260 7.260 QSL available at https://www.nps.gov/caco/learn/historyculture/marconi.htm

Parks on the Air

April 7, 1400-2200 3.5 28.0 Florida State Parks on the Air CW Ph flspota.org/rules

April 7, 1400-April 8, 2000 1.8-UHF Texas State Parks on the Air. CW Ph Dig www.tspota.org

ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB

April 15, 1800–2359 3.5-50 Ph Exchange-Name, 2digit year first licensed, state. www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Participating is FUN, FUN, FUN...ENJOY!

Info from *QST* April 2018 Pg. 84 and 96 - All times in GMT ZULU time

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

Please reserve and pay for your "*2018 Hamvention*" ride to Xenia, OH Bus Trip ASAP.

Saturday May 19, 2018 CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the *"2018 Hamvention"* 2ndt time now at the Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH.

Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Hamvention (formerly Dayton Hamvention) at least once. Please join us in 2018, it is an incredible event, 2nd year in this Venue and offers something for everyone.

The Bus trip will cost $50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there may be a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to *http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php* to order your tickets.

Stop 1: The 56 passenger bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there is security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Xenia at approximately 5:30 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at, plus we need your email info, name, call and phone number.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

***If you have any questions please see Metro W8MET at a CARS meeting or call him at 216-520-1320. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Metro Sinko W8MET, 6511 Elmarge Dr., Independence, OH 44131* attn. Xenia bus**

73, Metro, W8MET

CARS 2018 Officers & Committees

Audit
WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video
AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison
WJ8WM **

Awards
W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic
WJ8WM, KD8SCV, K8ARP

Club Photographer
N8OWS **

Field Day
WJ8WM, K8ARP, AC8NW

Find a Club Station location
K8KR** Ni8Z

50/50
WT8O

License classes
WT8O ** KD8ACO, K8SHB

Media Representative
KD8SCV

Membership
WT8O **

NET
WT8O **

Newsletter
WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Program's at Meetings
KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's
KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services
K8ARP **

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM
WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic
WB8ROK ** pop, K8DMT ** coffee, NW8X ** eat's

Scholarship
W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)
Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical
AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF

VE Exams
Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail
W8GC **
** chairman or co-chairman

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wt8o@att.net

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even year executive board 2 year term
N8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term
KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee
W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC

December 30, 2017